



CDCS news! July 2026

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The end of the year has come - and it feels like it's arrived very quickly. To our wonderful reception children, well done on your first year in school - you have all blown us away and we can't wait to see where the next 6 years take you!

Year 6... The time to fly has arrived. I have copied my speech from church below - never forget the journey you have been on. It really has been unique and one so few other children will understand. make sure to come back and see us sometime and remember, together we love, we aim high and we celebrate!

Year 6, in September 2019, you walked through the gates with little feet and big dreams. Ready to learn, play and grow. I walked in with you – it was my first year too (but my feet were slightly bigger than yours – I’m not sure that can be said now?!).

Your reception year was in full swing and then came 2020. The world changed and so did everything else. Classrooms went quiet, playgrounds were still, and so many precious moments were lost. The same happened for you in Year 1 too.

But you showed us what real strength looks like. You adapted, you kept going and you looked out for one another. You grew in ways no one could have planned. You laughed, you learned, you persevered. You turned challenges in to courage and uncertainty in to unity.

And perhaps, without even realising it, you became one of the most resilient groups of children our school has ever known. You have grown through uncertainty, change and challenge, yet here you stand - kind, funny, caring, determined and ready for whatever comes next.

As we wave you off to secondary school, we know one thing for certain. If you can begin your education during a global pandemic... If you can learn through lockdowns... If you can build friendships behind masks and in bubbles... If you can overcome everything the world unexpectedly placed in your path... Then there is nothing you can’t achieve. You are the year group who grew through history. Be proud of how far you’ve come.

There are people around you who have seen you travel through school from your early days in reception to tomorrow – your last day of primary school and there are people who have had the pleasure of getting to know you more recently. I am incredibly proud to have been your headteacher for the last 7 years – boy have you taught me a lot. Thank you for helping make me a better headteacher. Thank you for everything you have given the school and for everything you are. As a collective, you all lovingly described as a dysfunctional family – our dysfunctional family. It’s time now for you to go and show your secondary schools just how amazing you truly are.

Year 6, you have been incredible, I wish you all the luck in the world for what lies ahead. It has truly been a pleasure to be a tiny part of it. I’ll leave you with a poem by **Jade Hughes**. It’s called **Leaving School**:

We've now left school,
It's how the story ends,

Tears of happiness is what we recommend,

It's what we say,

But there's always a little pain,

Because once you've left,

It's not the same,

You could walk through school and you would see,

Your friends who have grown up incredibly,

But now you've gone,

It's not the same,

As you may never see them again,

Your friends who have grown up right beside you,

Who have helped you through your daily strife,

Will go ahead and leave behind them,

You who wants the same old life,

But you cannot live your life in the past,

Hoping that the same memories will last,

You have to move on and just be glad,

That leaving has made you so sad,

As this just shows that you have loved,

Your days at school here with us,

So go ahead and live your life,

And become what you want to be,

But don't forget the days you spent,

When you were young at school with me.



Great British Summer Savings scheme

From 25 June to 1 September 2026, the Government is temporarily cutting VAT from 20% to 5% on children's meals in restaurants, children and family tickets to cinemas, theatres, concerts and exhibitions, and admission to a wide range of attractions. Combined with free bus travel during August for children aged 5 to 15 in England, families and young people will be able to enjoy experiences that make summer special, including visits to the kinds of cultural and educational attractions that enrich children's lives outside the classroom. [Find out more here.](#)

Swimming

From September, children from Years 3 - 6 will swim. Because of a drastic cut to funding and parent contributions not covering costs, we have had to make the difficult decision to streamline our swimming offer. Because we can only afford to hire the pool for 2 terms, year 2 children will no longer swim.

Uniform

We've had a long run of hot weather and uniform flexibilities have been applied. From September, our usual uniform applies so as you replace items over the summer, please do make sure they fit our [uniform policy which can be found here](#). The only branded item we ask for is the school jumper/cardigan which can be bought from the school wear shop in town.

Please can I remind everyone that short shorts, such as Nike pros, are not acceptable neither are branded items. Thank you for your support.

Volunteer's tea party

Last week we were able to say thank you to our wonderful volunteers with a tea party. A special thanks to all of our wonderful bakers and the amazing Mrs White for pulling it together and preparing the choir to sing. It was a lovely afternoon.

To everyone who gives their days, In countless, kind, and quiet ways. You build our school community, With open hearts and energy.

To those who sit with patient ears, And banish early reading fears, And those who brave the mud and breeze, To guide our Forest School through trees.

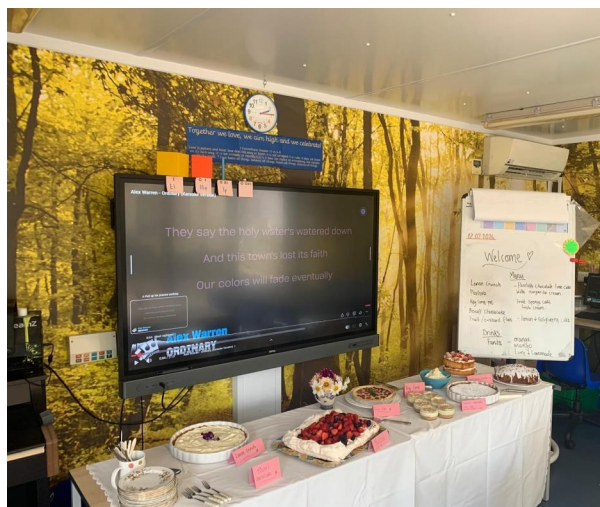
To PTFA, whose endless drive, Makes every school event alive. You bake, you plan, you raise the gold, For iPads and for dreams untold.

To those who join our trips away, And help us safely learn and play. You count the heads and hold a hand, On every visit we have planned.

To those who stand in autumn's chill, When all the playground falls so still. You sound the bugle, brave and proud, As the *Last Post* rings across the crowd.

To governors who steer and guide, And champion our school with pride. When Ofsted came to look around, Your positive impact was profound.

You are the heart, the helping hands, The kindest team in all the lands. For every single thing you do, Our whole school says a huge **Thank You!**



Swimming gala success

A huge congratulations to our swimmers for their recent swimming success. Due to a technicality with gaining places on a first come, first served basis, Chilthorne showed compassion to their friends at Oaklands and (with permission) between them, they entered a joint team.

Our joint team, Oakthorne, got through to the final in 9 out of the 11 races and had 2 first place finishes, 2 second place finishes, 4 third place finishes and 1 fourth place finish. We came 2nd overall - by 1 single point!

Well done to all Oakthorne swimmers - you showed great team work, compassion, resilience and respect and both adults who were with you are proud of you all!



Skool Beanz

A huge thank you to our lovely Lara from Skool Beanz for organising a special viewing of "Raindrops on Roses" by Poppy Plowman for all our children. It was wonderful to watch a show all about neurodiversity within the beautiful allotment grounds.



Free School Meals

Many of us will be affected by the cost of living crisis. We want to help and make sure you know what support you can receive. Your child might be eligible for free school meals.

Free school meals can help your child by:

- Helping them focus and learn
- Teaching them to eat healthy food
- Giving them good food every day
- Letting them join free holiday activities
- Giving the school extra money to help your child learn

Even if your child does not claim the free school meal, the school still receives extra money to support their education if you apply. From September 2026, there will be two groups who can get free school meals:

Targeted group: This is for families on Universal Credit who earn less than £7,400 a year or receive other benefits. These families may get extra help, such as access to free holiday activities.

Expanded group: This is for families on Universal Credit who earn more than £7,400. These families will get free school meals only.

From 1 September 2026, all children whose parents or carer receives Universal Credit can get free school meals.

If your child has already received free school meals, **you must apply after 1st August again before 1 September 2026** so your child can keep receiving them.

You can check if your family is eligible and **apply throughout August** through Somerset Council. For more information and to apply online: <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/children-families-and-education/school-life/free-school-meals/>.

If you have already applied, please apply again after 1st August 2026.

Attendance

Thank you to everyone for your support ensuring your children are attendance HEROs – **Here Ready and On Time Every day!**

The year group with the highest attendance this year of 97% is, again, **Year 2**. Well done to them!



And finally...

A huge thank you to everyone for your kind words, emails, letters, cards and gifts. I have been blown away by how many people have taken the time to say and do lovely things. All of the emails and messages have been passed on to staff and governors where appropriate. Thank you - your words really do mean the most.

Have a wonderful summer and we look forward to seeing most of you on Monday 7th September. Year 6 - go an show those secondary schools what you are made of!

A reminder that we finish at 1.30pm today.





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